

Lightning Times

NCO EDITION



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The Army and the NCO
- Soldier Highlight
- NCO Highlight
- NCO Q&A
- Important Dates



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Soldier Highlight | 2 |
| NCO Highlight | 2 |
| Q&A | 3 |
| Closing | 4 |

One of the main reasons the United States Army is the best in the world is because of our professional Non-Commissioned Officer Corps. Our Corps is made up of highly trained and educated individuals that understand the mission set before them. But more than this, they understand the commander's intent, the commitment to excellence, and what it takes to

THE ARMY AND THE NCO

accomplish that mission. They are given the freedom to accomplish that mission with minimum guidance from the commander.

The Non-Commissioned Officer's history dates back to the American Revolution when the Sergeants were the disciplinarian's in the unit. The NCO has always been responsible for the discipline and individual training of Soldiers and we're responsible for keeping Soldiers in line during long marches.

What makes NCO's invaluable in today's Army is our understanding of the mission and our understanding of our Soldiers. "Mission first, Soldiers always" is our motto and what we live by. NCO's help officers accomplish the unit's mission by ensuring the Soldiers are prepared. We are the voice of the

Soldier to the commander and make sure his needs come before ours. We are the standard bearer, enforcer of expectations, marriage counselor, financial specialist, big brother, and sometimes the closest thing to family some Soldiers have. We love our Soldiers like we love our children and are just as proud when they achieve greatness and disappointed when they let us down. Pay is certainly not the reason we work and sacrifice the way we do; it's our deep sense of pride in our unit, in mission accomplishment, and knowing the positive impact we can have on young people around us. We are where the rubber meets the road every day, with our Soldiers in the cold and the rain and together far from home. We wouldn't want it any other way.

-Command Sergeant Major

William K. Maddox

SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT: SPC PETER TUINEI-FLORA

SPC (Promotable) Peter Tuinei-Flora has been an integral part to the success of the S-6 shop while deployed. He has stepped up in the roles of Video Teleconferencing Coordinator and Telephone Control Officer, ensuring communications are smooth within the area of operations and when calling back to our main element. Since he's been deployed to an "undisclosed location in SW Asia", he's coordinat-

ed and completed over 100 VTC's as well as assisting 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (Ft. Bliss, TX) in training their teleconference personnel. Aside from just communications abroad, SPC Tuinei-Flora has taken charge of the shop multiple times while his higher ranking NCO's have been given missions in other locations. Each time he's been put in charge, operations have continued without any is-

sues, proving his technical ability as well as his leadership skills.

He's also been one of the best morale boosters in the brigade, always coming into work motivated, excited, and willing to encourage others. In a deployment environment, his attitude makes a major difference.

Keep up the good work!



NCO SPOTLIGHT: SGT SHERRI KILLION



A big "Lightning Strike" congratulations goes out to SGT Sherri "Princess" Killion for earning HHB's NCO of the Month Award. Selected by the BDE S3 SGM to deploy as the BDE S2 NCOIC over more senior NCOs in the section, SGT Killion immediately identified numerous deficiencies in BDE level security programs and initi-

ated corrective action to meet Army standards. As the primary briefer of daily intelligence updates to Brigade and Battalion command teams, she continually demonstrates expert knowledge and remarkable analytical insight in her predictive analysis, driving BDE operations by mitigating risk to BDE operations, equipment, and personnel.

In addition, SGT Killion continually synchronizes the operations of all BN S2 sections in the AO to meet CENTCOM requirements. Congratulations to SGT Killion for her phenomenal performance and winning HHB, 69th ADA NCO of the Month. Keep up the great work!

UNIT PRIDE

There are many ways to bolster unit pride and cohesion but there are few as significant as the pride Soldiers take in the unit colors and unit patch. On 6 SEP 1983 the shoulder sleeve insignia for the 69th Air Defense Artillery "Lightning" Brigade was authorized. Countless Soldiers have worn the 69th ADA Brigade patch with pride while assigned to this unit, but far fewer are authorized to wear it permanently on their right

sleeve to signify their war-time service.

On 22 FEB 2013, nearly 30 years after the official authorization of the unit patch, 68 Soldiers, NCOs and officers assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 69th ADA Brigade were bestowed with the honor to permanently wear the



Lightning Brigade patch for the remainder of their careers during an official "Patching Ceremony." The significance of this event was further amplified as this was the first Combat Patch awarded to 21 of those 68 Soldiers.

The brigade command team, COL McIntire and CSM Madrox invited the 32d AAMDC Command Sergeant Major, CSM Ross to commemorate

this event with the 69th team. This honor provides tangible recognition and signifies their service to the nation and this great unit in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The patching ceremony was concluded with a unit barbeque to celebrate this moment in the long standing history of the 69th ADA Brigade.

-1SG for 69th ADA HHB
SFC Paul Gahl

NCO Q & A

BACKBONE OF THE ARMY

We asked the newest and most experienced NCO a series of questions this month!

Question 1: What is an NCO to you?

SGT Cabrera: Somebody that takes care of Soldiers, accomplishes missions, and places Soldiers first.

CSM Maddox: A professional leader. This is a way of life, not just a job. The NCO creed says, "No one is more professional than I." We don't just say the words, we apply it and live it.

Question 2: What do you think is the stereotype of an NCO outside the military?

SGT Cabrera: Somebody always yelling orders.

CSM Maddox: On the positive, the sergeant is seen as a leader. Not to repeat myself, but people outside the Army know a SGT is a big deal. Young officers listen to their SGT, look to them to learn. On the negative side, businesses see them as uneducated and amateur officers. Always smoking a cigarette, gruff, rough around the edges, and drinking a ton of coffee.

Question 3: What is an NCO really like?

SGT Cabrera: Someone that makes things and people work together to accomplish the mission.

CSM Maddox: In today's Army, the NCO is a highly educated, physically fit individual. They are the best institutionally trained NCO Corps we've had in ages. I do believe that we can improve by getting back to the basics of taking care of Soldiers though.

Question 4: Why does the Army need NCOs?

SGT Cabrera: Because NCO's are the backbone of the Army. Without NCO's, a lot of things just wouldn't be possible.

CSM Maddox: I think it's to use the Soldier's experience and make it happen. We execute the Commander's intent. Think about it. We give that young SSG or SGT the power to make a decision that affects others, decentralizing the decision-making. That young NCO is responsible for others and has to be accountable for his or her Soldiers. Old SGT's used to provide discipline on the march, today they are the standard-bearers for enforcing discipline through leading by example.

Question 5: What did you want to be when you 'grew up'?

SGT Cabrera: I always wanted to be a leader, not a follower, no matter what position I ended up in.

CSM Maddox: I wanted to be a paratrooper. If I could've enlisted for 20 years when I first got into the military, I would've. Instead, I was told I could only get four years. My whole life has been about the Army. I actually had more TA50 as an 8-year old

than I got in Basic Training.

Question 6: What do you think your childhood self would say to you now?

SGT Cabrera: She would probably be like, "Wow, I want to be like you one day!"

CSM Maddox: "You look a little greyer?" **laughs** More than likely he'd tell me I wasn't doing too bad.

Question 7: What would you say to your childhood self?

SGT Cabrera: Don't let your emotions take away from the view of your success.

CSM Maddox: I don't think I would tell him to do anything different. I might tell him to try and get into Ranger School harder, as that's my only regret. But as long as I have the opportunity to make a difference, this is where I want to be, same as when I was younger.

We asked SGT (P) Hohl, who will soon make SSG Hohl, Question 1.

SGT (P) Hohl: Taking care of Soldiers, teaching, guiding, and mentoring. Taking pride in what you do and genuinely caring for Soldiers. That's what it means to be an NCO.

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69TH AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY BRIGADE



Soldier's Name (no rank included)
69th ADA BDE
APO AE 09309-1221



TO THE FAMILIES

We want to personally thank all of our Families for your support and dedication. Without you, we could not be the Soldiers that we are, let alone perform at a high level each day. Thank you for keeping the home fire burning as we know that is no easy task. We look forward to the day that we will return home. Until then, please continue to support your Soldier so that he or she can fulfill their obligation to our great nation.

-HHB Command

CPT Barron and 1SG Gahl

GUARDING THE SKIES!

IMPORTANT DATES

February and March Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| SGT Killion, Sherri | 6 FEB |
| SSG Goffinett, Joel | 9 FEB |
| SSG Moreno, Carlos | 14 FEB |
| SPC Wheeler, Daniel | 14 FEB |
| CPT Tibayan, Arturo | 18 FEB |
| SSG Beckendorf, Thad | 21 FEB |
| SPC Thomas, Demario | 23 FEB |
| CW4 Powell, Victor | 28 FEB |
| SPC Shackelford, Jason | 4 MAR |
| SSG Terry, Harlan | 24 MAR |
| SSG Kunkle, Matthew | 30 MAR |

April Birthdays (Upcoming)

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| SSG Miller, Darrell | 9 APR |
| CPT Greco, Brian | 9 APR |
| SFC Gahl, Paul | 9 APR |
| MAJ Minor, Mattii | 10 APR |
| SPC Culler, Brooke | 14 APR |
| MAJ Whitlock, Carla | 18 APR |
| PFC Maduri, Anthony | 20 APR |
| SGT Berlingeri, Ricardo | 27 APR |
| CPT Bohache, Jessica | 30 APR |